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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/446,550	12/22/1999	OLAF ERIK ALEXANDER ISELE	CM-1519Q	2485

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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, CATHARINE L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3761

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/446,550

Applicant(s)

ISELE ET AL.

Examiner

C. Lynne Anderson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ¹⁵~~16-28~~ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07 February 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dobrin et al. (5,628,737) in view of Morman et al. (5,883,028).

Dobrin discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of a particulate filler material imbedded in the polymeric film layer. Dobrin discloses an absorbent article 20, as shown in figure 2, comprising a core region 74, and a chassis region 76 surrounding the core region 74. The article 20 further comprises a laminate 95, as shown in figure 3, which extends into both the core region 74 and the chassis region 76 to form a core backsheet and a chassis backsheet. The laminate 95 comprises a polymeric film layer 26, as described in column 6, lines 42-43, and a

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fibrous layer 90, as described in column 9, lines 51-52. The laminate 95 is a breathable, unitary layer. The laminate 95 comprises apertures 84 in the chassis region 76, giving the chassis region 76 a higher degree of breathability than the core region 74, and therefore the MVTR value of the core region 74 is lower than that of the chassis region 76.

Morman discloses a breathable laminate for use as the backsheet of an absorbent article, as described in column 1, lines 5-8. The laminate comprises a polymeric film layer 32 and a fibrous layer 12. The polymeric layer 32 has a basis weight of greater than 25 gsm, as disclosed in column 9, lines 63-65, and comprises a polymeric matrix and a particulate filler material, as disclosed in column 12, lines 28-31. The presence of particulate filler material inherently results in cracks in the polymeric layer 32 formed around the particulate filler material. The laminate disclosed by Mormon has a high vapor permeability, but reduces the passage of ammonia, as described in column 1, lines 49-67.

It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to construct the absorbent article of Dobrin having a backsheet comprising the laminate of Mormon, in order to reduce passage of ammonia while retaining high vapor permeability.

With respect to claim 2, Dobrin discloses the polymeric film layer 26 is wider than the fibrous layer 90, as described in column 10, lines 7-9.

With respect to claims 3 and 4, Mormon discloses a MVTR of at least 1500 g/24hr/m², as described in column 6, lines 14-18.

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With respect to claims 5 and 6, Dobrin discloses all aspects of the claimed invention but remains silent as to how much greater the transmission rate of the chassis region is than the transmission rate of the core region. The chassis region is apertured to increase its breathability, and therefore has a higher transmission rate than the core region.

With respect to claim 7, Morman discloses the filler material is calcium carbonate, as described in column 13, lines 50-52.

With respect to claim 8, Morman discloses the polymeric layer 32 has a basis weight of less than 50 gsm, as described in column 9, lines 63-65.

With respect to claim 9, Morman discloses the fibrous layer 12 has a basis weight of about 10 gsm, as described in column 11, line 45, which in combination with the polymeric layer 32, would have a basis weight of less than 70 gsm.

With respect to claim 10, Dobrin discloses the fibrous layer 90 is a non-woven web, as described in column 9, line 52.

With respect to claim 11, Morman discloses combining the polymeric layer 32 and the fibrous layer 12 by heat or melt bonding, as described in column 9, lines 43-50.

With respect to claim 12, Morman discloses combining the polymeric layer 32 and the fibrous layer 12 by extrusion, as described in column 10, lines 41-43.

With respect to claim 11, Morman discloses combining the polymeric layer 32 and the fibrous layer 12 by adhesive bonding, as described in column 9, lines 43-50.

With respect to claim 14, Dobrin discloses a baby diaper, as shown in figure 1.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (703) 306-5716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (703) 308-1957. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3590 for regular communications and (703) 306-4520 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

CWA
cla
March 5, 2003


WEILUN LO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700